

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 MADRID 05384 041637Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 /064 W

----- 070280

R 041445Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2631

INFO/AMEMBASSY BONN 1335

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MADRID 5384

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS PINT, SP

SUBJ: POSTPONEMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS:

RIGHT-WING MANEUVER TO CONTROL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

SUMMARY: FRANCO APPROVED DECREE JULY 31 POSTPONING

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS FROM NOV TO MARCH, 1976. ALTHOUGH BURDEN OF PARLIAMENTARY AGENDA ALLEDGED AS REASON, ACTION BELIEVED TO BE PART OF LARGER STRATEGY TO INSURE RIGHT-WING CONTROL OF ALL STATES IN POST-FRANCO TRANSITION AND PRESERVATION OF REGIME. PUBLIC OPPOSITION OF PRESIDENCY TO PROROGATION OF PRESENT "CORTES". WHICH HAS HELD UP ARIAS PROGRAM, HAS RESULTED IN LOSS OF PRESTIGE FOR ARIAS AND EMERGENCE OF WELL -ARTICULATED RIGHT-WING POWER CENTER LED BY SOLIS RUIZ, SECGEN OF NATIONAL MOVEMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. COUNCIL OF REALM HELD SPECIAL MEETING JULY 28 TO CONSIDER PROPOSAL BY SOME 70 "CORTES" DEPUTIES THAT THE PRESENT "CORTES" BE PROROUGED TO ALLOW TIME TO TERMINATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MADRID 05384 041637Z

KEY LEGISLATION (ACCORDING TO SPANISH CONSTITUTION, PARLIAMENTARY PROROGATION IS MADE BY HEAD OF STATE, ON

RECOMMENDATION OF COUNCIL OF REALM, BASED ON "SERIOUS GROUNDS"). COULCIL PRESIDENT, RODRIGUEZ DE VALCARCEL, TOOK APPROVED MEASURE TO FRANCO (VACATIONING AT MEIRAS, GALACIA SINCE JULY 28) WHO SIGNED DECREE JULY 31. PRESENT "CORTES" WHOSE FOUR-YEAR TERM WOULD NORMALLY EXPIRE NOV 16, WAS EXTENDED FOUR MONTHS. PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS, THEREFORE, HAVE BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL MAR 16, 1976.

2. PROROGATION STIRRED UP POLITICAL CONTROVERSY IN "CORTES" JULY 30 INASMUCH AS SPANIARDS RECALLED PREMIER ARIAS NAVARROU'S STATEMENT ON TV IN FEBRUARY THAT THERE WERE NO "SERIOUS GROUNDS" WHICH WOULD NECESSITATE SUCH A MEASURE. EVEN SECRETARY OF COUNCIL OF REALM, ENRIQUE DE LA MATA, JOINED OTHER DEPUTIES IN CRITICIZING MEASURE AS UNTIMELY AND UNNECESSARY.

3. KEY ARIAS COLLABORATOR AND "CORTES" DEPUTY IN PRESIDENCY PUBLICLY STATED LAST WEEK THAT THERE WAS NO SERIOUS CAUSE TO JUSTIFY PROROGATION. ALTHOUGH "CORTES" HAD NOT CONCLUDED DEBATE ON NEW LAW ON LOCAL GOVT--ONE OF FOUR KEY ELEMENTS IN ARIAS' ORIGINAL PROGRAM OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT-- IT GAVE FINAL APPROVAL JULY 30 TO LAW ON INCOMPATIBILITIES WHICH WOULD MAKE SOME DEPUTIES INELIGIBLE BECAUSE OF CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS. ON BALANCE, HOWEVER, PRESENT "CORTES" HAS DRAGGED ITS FEET IN LEGSLATING MEASURES PROPOSED BY ARIAS AND, WHERE IT HAS TAKEN ACTION, IT HAS USUALLY INTORDUCED LESS LIBERAL FEATURES.

4. KEY ISSUE IS CONFIGURATION OF FUTURE "CORTES" AND IN TURN COUNCIL OF REALM WHICH IS SLATED TO GUIDE DECISIONS OF FUTURE KING. IMPLICIT IN ARIAS' PROGRAM OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IS ANTICIPATED CHANGE OF COMPLEXION OF NEW "CORTES": BETTER REPRESSETTIVITY AND POSSIBILITY OF CAUCUSES BY POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS, AT LEAST AMONG DEPUTIES IN FAMILY SECTOR AND POSSIBLY IN SECTOR REPRESENTING LOCAL GOVT.

5. PROACTICAL EFFECT OF PROROGATION IS TO GIVE MORE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MADRID 05384 041637Z

TIME TO PRESENT "CORTES" TO REVISE GOVT'S DRAFT LAW ON LOCAL GOVT "CORTES" HAS ALREADY ELIMINATED POSSIBILITY OF DIRECT, POPULAR ELECTION OF DEPUTIES FROM SYNDICAL DECTOR). MORE IMPORTANTLY, IT GIVES FRANCO OPPORTUNITY TO APPOINT NEW PRESIDEN T OF COUNCIL OF REALM (AND CONSEQUENTLY, OF REGENCY COUNCIL) IN NOV 1975 FOR SIX-YEAR TERM OF BASIS OF THREE NOMINATIONS SUBMITTED BY PRESENT COUNCIL. VALCARCEL'S TERM EXPIRES NOV 16; HE CAN BE REAPPOINTED. HE IS CLOSE TO FRANCO AND HAS ACQUIRED TREMENSOUC PRESTIGE IN HIS SIX YEARS AS

PRESIDENT. FUTURE PRESIDENT WILL HAVE KEY ROLE
IN TRANSITION AS MEMBER OF REGENCY COULCIL AND IN COUNCIL
OF REALM WHICH HAS CONSTITUTIONAL PREROGATIVE OF ADVISING
AND CLEARING ALL ACTIONS OF FUTURE KING.

6. POSTPONEMENT GIVEN TIME FO REGIME, IN PARTICULAR
RIGHT-WING ELEMENTS CURRENTLY LED BY SOLIS RUIZ (SEPTOL)
TO ORCHESTRATE ORGANIZATION AND PARTICIPATION OF POLITICAL
ASSOCIATIONS IN FUTURE ELECTIONS. NATIONAL MOVEMENT
APPROVED JULY 28 DRAFT STATUTE ON ELECTORAL PARTICIPATION
OF ASSOCIATIONS BUT HAS YET TO ELUCIDATE HOW THEY ARE TO
BE FINANCED OR TO HAVE ACCESS TO MEDIA FACILITIES OF
NATIONAL MOVEMENT.

7. COMMENT: ARIAS HAS SUFFERED A LOSS OF PRESTIGE FROM
ADOPTION OF MEASURE WHICH HE ORIGINALLY OPPOSED.
APPARENT GAINER IS SOLIS RUIZ WHO, SINCE HIS RESUMPTION
OF LEADERSHIP OF NATIONAL MOVEMENT IN EARLY JUNE, HAS
EMERGED AS LEADER OF RIGHT-WING REGIME SUPPORTERS.
STABLER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS, ELECTION CANCELLATION, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MADRID05384
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750268-1002
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750885/aaaacxhg.tel
Line Count: 135
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <02 OCT 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSTPONEMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS: RIGHT-WING MANEUVER TO CONTROL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT
TAGS: PINT, SP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006